

REMARKS

Claims 22-38 are present in the above-captioned application and have been subjected to a species election under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Specifically, the Official Action avers that the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention are present in the claims:

Species I, characterized by Figures 7-13; and

Species II, characterized by Figures 14-20.

It is the Examiner's position that the species listed as Species I and II are patentably distinct from each other.

In response to the Examiner's requirement for species election, the Applicant elects to prosecute the subject matter of Species II, Claims 22, 24-35 and 37. However, the Applicant reserves the right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter in this application.

Furthermore, it is respectfully requested that the present Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-identified application prior to examination.

By means of the present Preliminary Amendment, the claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies from claims 25, 28, and 29, to correct dependencies of claims 32 and 33, and to clarify claims 30 and 31. The amendments to the claims are fully supported in the original disclosure. Thus, no new matter has been entered into the disclosure by way of such amendment.

In view of the foregoing, an examination on the merits of the elected claims, at an early date, is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Spinelli', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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